

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for operating a telematics unit within a mobile vehicle, the  
5 method comprising:  
receiving an incoming call signal, the incoming call signal including  
an origin identifier;  
determining an answer mode based on the origin identifier of the  
incoming call signal;  
10 initiating the answer mode responsive to the answer mode  
determination; and  
operating the telematics unit based on the initiated answer mode.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the origin identifier is selected from  
15 the group consisting of: an automatic number identifier, and a digital signature.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the answer mode  
comprises:  
determining a first answer mode when the origin identifier is within  
20 a predetermined group of origin identifiers; and  
determining a second answer mode when the origin identifier is not  
within the predetermined group of origin identifiers.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein operating the telematics unit based  
25 on the first answer mode comprises:  
directing the incoming call signal to a vehicle information controller  
within the telematics unit.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:  
connecting the incoming call signal to the vehicle information  
controller within the telematics unit.

5

6. The method of claim 3, wherein operating the telematics unit based  
on the second answer mode comprises:

directing the incoming call signal to a user interface within the  
telematics unit.

10

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:  
connecting the incoming call signal to the user interface within the  
telematics unit responsive to a user interface activation.

15

8. The method of claim 6, further comprising:  
determining the user interface is not activated; and  
activating an electronic voice-mail system.

20

9. A computer readable medium for operating a telematics unit within  
a mobile vehicle, comprising:  
computer readable code for determining an answer mode based on  
an origin identifier included within an incoming call signal;

computer readable code for initiating the answer mode responsive  
to the answer mode determination; and

25

computer readable code for operating the telematics unit based on  
the initiated answer mode.

10. The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the origin identifier is selected from the group consisting of: an automatic number identifier, and a digital signature.

5

11. The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the computer readable code for determining the answer mode comprises:

computer readable code for determining a first answer mode when the origin identifier is within a predetermined group of origin identifiers; and

10 computer readable code for determining a second answer mode when the origin identifier is not within the predetermined group of origin identifiers.

12. The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the computer readable code for operating the telematics unit based on the first answer mode comprises:

computer readable code for directing the incoming call signal to a vehicle information controller within the telematics unit.

13. The computer readable medium of claim 12, further comprising:  
20 computer readable code for connecting the incoming call signal to the vehicle information controller within the telematics unit.

14. The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the computer readable code for operating the telematics unit based on the second answer mode comprises:

25 computer readable code for directing the incoming call signal to a user interface within the telematics unit.

15. The computer readable medium of claim 14, further comprising:  
computer readable code for connecting the incoming call signal to  
the user interface within the telematics unit responsive to a user interface  
5 activation.

16. The computer readable medium of claim 15, further comprising:  
computer readable code for determining the user interface is not  
activated; and  
10 computer readable code for activating an electronic voice-mail  
system.

17. A system for operating a telematics unit within a mobile vehicle, the  
system comprising:  
15 means for receiving an incoming call signal, the incoming call signal  
including an origin identifier;  
means for determining an answer mode based on the origin  
identifier of the incoming call signal;  
means for initiating the answer mode responsive to the answer  
20 mode determination; and  
means for operating the telematics unit based on the initiated  
answer mode.

25